

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1344 as passed by the Seventy-Eighth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill No. 1344 would omit from the ballot any unopposed candidate. Under Sec. 2.053 of the Texas Election Code, an unopposed candidate for public office in a political subdivision may be declared elected without a vote. This bill, however, would eliminate the candidate's name from the ballot entirely, preventing voters from seeing the candidates and offices for which the election has been decided without a vote.

The better practice is that prescribed in House Bill No. 1476, which I have signed into law. House Bill No. 1476 permits unopposed candidates for state and county offices to be declared elected without a vote if no one is eligible to serve as a write-in candidate, but it continues to place the names of the unopposed candidates on the ballot so voters can see who was elected without a vote.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 2003.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Gwyn Shea

GWYN SHEA
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7:30 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2003